

4.13 TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS AND VEGETATION (TEV)

4.13.1 Introduction

BLM manages the vegetative resources of the King Range to promote the overall health of this diverse biogeographical region and to provide for the wide spectrum of organisms, ecosystem processes, and human resource needs that depend upon these plant communities. Specific goals, objectives, and actions in the Proposed RMP address particular habitat types found in the King Range, special status species, and other aspects of vegetation management. Actions detailed for the various vegetative resources apply to all three management zones unless otherwise specified. Specific management objectives and actions have been identified in this plan for special status species, one potential plant pathogen, and for all major habitat/vegetation types including coastal dunes, coastal scrub, grasslands, and chaparral habitats. For a discussion of forested habitats and grazing management on grasslands, see those individual sections. Fungi/mushroom harvest management is discussed under special forest products.

4.13.2 Vegetation Types and Habitats

Goal TEV 1: Manage vegetation types or habitats to produce and/or maintain a mosaic of compositionally and structurally diverse habitat types and plant communities that have historically occurred prior to the era of mechanized logging and exclusion of fire regimes in the region (approximately 1950).

Special Status Species

Objective TEV 1.1: Maintain and encourage viable populations of threatened, endangered, and BLM Special Status plant species known to occur in the King Range.

Objective TEV 1.2: Maintain the occurrence of *Layia carnosa* in the Mattole Beach Dunes in accordance with the Recovery Plan for the Seven Coastal Plants and the Myrtle's Silverspot Butterfly (FWS 1998).

Management Actions

TEV 1.2.1: Monitor the frequency and distribution of the *Layia carnosa* population on an annual basis. Should the frequency of beach layia decline more than 30% between any two years, the BLM would initiate an appropriate management response to reverse the trend.

Rationale: The only currently known threatened or endangered plant species within the King Range is *Layia carnosa* (beach layia). This species is state and federally listed as endangered, and, within the planning area, is restricted to the dune habitat in the vicinity of the mouth of the Mattole River.

Objective TEV 1.3: Review all project proposals to determine if they would affect BLM Special Status species, and incorporate project recommendations in accordance with the California Bureau Sensitive Species Policy (BLM Manual 6840) to prevent any actions that would contribute to the listing of any species under the ESA.

Sudden Oak Death

Objective TEV 1.4: Work cooperatively with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Humboldt County Agricultural Commission in addition to other applicable agencies to remain informed of current research related to the spread of the sudden oak death (*Phytophthora ramorum*) pathogen.

Management Actions

TEV 1.4.1: Monitor species known to be susceptible to this pathogen on a semi-annual basis in order to detect the presence of sudden oak death (*Phytophthora ramorum*) in the forested habitats of the King Range. If detections occur, initiate appropriate management response to isolate and minimize the spread of the pathogen.

TEV 1.4.2: Continue to provide/post appropriate signage and literature provided by the California Oak Mortality Taskforce to educate the public about the spread of the sudden oak death disease. Additional preventative and control measures may be implemented, such as mandatory vehicle “dip” stations as developed by the BLM if found necessary to manage a potentially devastating infestation.

Coastal Dunes Habitat

Objective TEV 1.5: Maintain a semi-stable dune system in the vicinity of the mouth of the Mattole River that would continue to promote a diverse assemblage of native plant species. This habitat would be managed to remain free of invasive plant species, which increase the stability of these sandy substrates and compromise the health of native species.

Management Actions

TEV 1.5.1: Maintain the dune system by continuing to implement invasive plant eradication efforts. In addition, perform qualitative monitoring of recreational use throughout this plant community to track and assess the trends of these habitats over time.

Coastal Scrub Habitat

Objective TEV 1.6: Maintain and encourage a productive and vigorous coastal scrub community that would produce an abundance of new foliage as forage for ungulates and other herbivores, allow for the establishment of decadent scrub communities as habitat for other species, and provide habitat for rare plant species known to occur in the vicinity of the King Range.

Management Actions

TEV 1.6.1: Use prescribed burns to mimic the natural fire regimes that helped to shape and maintain the distribution and extent of the different coastal scrub communities.

TEV 1.6.2: Limited grazing projects and mechanical treatments outside allotment boundaries would be allowed within the Frontcountry Zone to help maintain and increase vigor of coastal scrub communities.

Grasslands Habitat

Objective TEV 1.7: Maintain healthy, productive grasslands to encourage native species abundance and diversity when feasible and to meet Section 2.52 of the Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines for California and Northwestern Nevada Final EIS (BLM 1998b).

Management Actions

TEV 1.7.1: Use prescribed burns to mimic the pre-mechanization era fire regimes that helped to shape and maintain the distribution and extent of grasslands. Native grass enhancement projects will be pursued through an integrated approach including, but not limited to burning, grazing, re-seeding, and transplanting with locally collected seed stock.

TEV 1.7.2: Limited grazing outside allotment boundaries within the Frontcountry Zone would be allowed for vegetation management purposes on a project-by-project basis.

Chaparral Habitat

Objective TEV 1.8: Maintain current levels of this fire-adapted plant community as a component of the diverse vegetation mosaic found within the King Range.

Management Actions

TEV 1.8.1: Implement prescribed burns in specific areas if it is determined necessary to implement specific management goals.

Objective TEV 1.9: Allow for natural disturbances such as wildfire necessary to maintain these fire-dependent habitats.

Management Actions

TEV 1.9.1: Same as Action TEV 1.8.1 above.

Invasive Plant Species

Objective TEV 1.10: Implement and meet national BLM policies consistent with the Partners Against Weeds Initiative (USDI 1998) and Executive Order 13112. Focus efforts on eliminating invasive, non-native weeds wherever feasible and safe, and contingent upon eradication efforts not resulting in natural or cultural resource impacts that are greater than the impacts of the infestations.

Management Actions

TEV 1.10.1: Continue to initiate and maintain current, on-going efforts to map, monitor, and eradicate invasive plant species within the King Range.

TEV 1.10.2: Implement and meet national BLM policies consistent with the Partners Against Weeds Initiative (USDI 1998) and Executive Order 13112. To accomplish this, BLM would implement prevention and control measures consistent with guidelines developed by the USDA and Humboldt County Agricultural Commission.

TEV 1.10.3: Remain an active and participating member of the Humboldt County Weed Management Area, and work with local landowners, community members, volunteers, and

additional agencies to promote education about these species and encourage efforts that would aid in the prevention of invasive plant establishment.

TEV 1.10.4: An Integrated Pest Management approach would be applied to all invasive non-native species infestations. Removal of invasive plant species by manual means is the preferred method of eradication, and would be utilized wherever possible. The use of herbicides would be restricted to specific situations when all other alternatives are determined to be unfeasible and ineffective. Any proposed use of herbicides would be conservative, targeting specific weed individuals for a given species. Any herbicide use would be assessed using the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and would be made available for public comment.

4.14 FOREST MANAGEMENT (FM)

4.14.1 Introduction

All of the forested lands in the planning area have been designated as a Late-Successional Reserve (LSR) under the Northwest Forest Plan and therefore, must be managed to promote late successional forest characteristics. All active forest management activities in the plan are focused in the Frontcountry Zone only, and are intended to develop more natural stand characteristics in areas that were previously harvested. Some of these previously logged areas have burned in high intensity fires, or are at risk for future fires of stand-replacing intensity. The primary goal in silvicultural treatments is to increase the Douglas-fir component in tanoak dominated stands, and “fireproof” this fir component so that it has a greater chance to reach maturity. Without silvicultural treatments, most of these previously harvested stands would remain in an unnatural cycle of young forest repeatedly burned by high intensity stand replacing fires. All proposed treatments including thinning, fire salvage and other silvicultural practices will be implemented only on sites where it can be demonstrated that they would accelerate development of late successional forest structure.

Forest management actions under this plan are focused on the Frontcountry Zone. Some limited treatments may be implemented on BLM lands in the Residential Zone to reduce fire danger. No treatments are planned for the Backcountry Zone.

4.14.2 Forest Management

Goal FM 1: Maintain and enhance a complex mosaic of various forest vegetation communities indicative of each successional stage and to protect existing stands with late successional or old-growth characteristics. This diverse and complex mosaic of forest vegetation would be represented with stands of all age classes and structural attributes. It should also provide a range of special forest products that serve both personal and commercial interests while maintaining existing and sustainable populations of vegetative species.

Objective FM 1.1: Maintain and develop forest vegetation based on a historical perspective prior to logging with mechanical equipment, which began in approximately 1945. Data collected suggests that this would require managing for a forest vegetation distribution of approximately sixty percent late successional or old-growth stands, twenty percent mid-mature stands, and twenty percent early successional stands.²

Objective FM 1.2: Manage the King Range to maintain and develop stand characteristics that are a reflection of natural processes in forest vegetation development.

Management Actions

FM 1.2.1: Limit timber removal to specific projects where the thinning of stands to enhance stand structure would result in the production of small merchantable timber.

FM 1.2.2: Complete tree planting as part of forest restoration following a fire and the establishment of native forest vegetation on newly decommissioned roads. Only trees grown from native seed would be planted.

FM 1.2.3: Silvicultural treatments would be performed by such means as cooperative agreements, partnerships, and contracts. Local communities will be given opportunities to participate in completing projects.

FM 1.2.4: Silvicultural treatments will be prioritized based on their probability of success, the need of treatment and accessibility.

Objective FM 1.3: Maintain undisturbed late successional forest habitat by keeping those stands intact and ensuring that the natural processes within these stands are left undisturbed.

Management Actions

FM 1.3.1: Natural processes would be followed to maintain the existing mosaic of forest vegetation in the Backcountry Zone. No silviculture projects will be allowed in this zone.

FM 1.3.2: No silvicultural projects would be completed in undisturbed late successional forests within the Frontcountry or Residential Zones.

Objective FM 1.4: Accelerate second growth stands to achieve old-growth or late successional stage characteristics. Silvicultural treatments would be used to treat previously harvested stands on public lands (see Figure 4-6 for priority areas). The result of these restoration treatments would be an accelerated rate of forest succession.

Management Actions

FM 1.4.1: Silvicultural treatments would be used to treat previously harvested stands to accelerate their development to late successional characteristics. Thinning of some forest stands is a desirable method of increasing the forest stand structural complexity and thereby developing old-growth or late successional characteristics. These treatments would involve stem-density management and tanoak control in sapling, pole, and early mature stands.

² Percent distributions of forest vegetation are based on data collected and analyzed in the Honeydew Creek Watershed Analysis (BLM 1996) and the King Range Late Successional Reserve Assessment (BLM 1998) and will be used as the reference condition.

Objective FM 1.5 Restore structural diversity of the second-growth stands and assist in developing a more enriched species composition of the second-growth stands.

Management Actions

FM 1.5.1: Conduct forest stand evaluations to identify stands in need of treatment to develop more diverse stand characteristics and accelerate their development to a late successional condition.

Objective FM 1.6: Reduce the size and frequency of large scale forest stand replacement fires by fireproofing forest stands. Where stand replacing fires do occur, conduct salvage logging where it would improve forest structure and support the development of more natural forest conditions.

Management Actions

FM 1.6.1: Design all silvicultural treatments to reduce the fuel loading within stands and aid in the prevention of stand replacement fires.

FM 1.6.2: Following a stand replacement fire, burned timber may be removed as part of an overall fire rehabilitation effort.

Rationale: Because of the logging activities of the 1950s and 1960s, many of the stands within the Frontcountry Zone have been altered to the point that entering them after a stand replacing fire will, in specific instances, provide an opportunity to correct the problems of past logging practices and lead to development of more natural stand conditions. Any salvage efforts should be part of a comprehensive effort that will include replanting, erosion control etc., and require that a snag component be left in place. Burned timber will only be removed after careful environmental analysis and within specified standards and guidelines adopted from the Northwest Forest Plan as shown in Section 4.14.4. Helicopter logging may be used as a method to remove the timber. No salvage operations would occur in the Backcountry Zone. Based on the fire history of the King Range in the Frontcountry Zone, it is anticipated that salvage would be a relatively small component of area forest management activities (see Chapter 5 for estimates).

FM 1.6.3: Complete an environmental analysis for any proposed salvage effort in the planning area. This analysis must demonstrate a primary benefit of improving forest structure to develop more natural stand conditions in order for the project to be approved. In some instances, salvage would occur along open roads and within/adjoining recreation sites to provide for public safety. The primary goals of salvage include:

- Remove coarse woody debris from the immediate site that may interfere with Douglas-fir regeneration.
- Reduce residual fuel loads that increase risk of future stand replacing fires.

As part of a comprehensive rehabilitation effort, salvage efforts would provide the opportunity to reduce the current tanoak component and open the canopy for Douglas-fir establishment. A secondary benefit may include the removal of fire-killed merchantable timber, but operations would not be implemented solely for timber removal.

FM 1.6.4: Old logging roads may be reopened and in very limited cases new temporary spur roads may be built to remove burned or fire killed timber. Spur roads would be minimal in number and short in length (under 1000 feet long). Upon completion of the operation all temporary roads would be removed or winterized for later removal prior to the rainy season. All roads would be permanently closed and restored within 12-18 months. The use of helicopters may be allowed in the removal of timber.



Previously harvested stands need silvicultural treatments to promote stand diversity and reduce fire danger.

4.14.3 Focus Areas and Treatments

Goal FM 2: Enhance the development of a more diverse forest structure and accelerate the development of late successional forest stand characteristics on the proximately 700 acres of the KRNCA currently identified for potential treatment, with additional areas to be identified during plan implementation.

Objective FM 2.1: Implement the Late Successional Reserve Assessment for the King Range that was completed in 1998, which recognized the need for forest treatment projects. Treatment criteria would include the following:

- Forest site potential: the inherent ability of a site to rapidly develop stand structure and volume.
- Timing treatment with respect to stand development: effecting treatments at a most advantageous successional stage for maximizing stand development.

- Effectiveness/efficiency of treatment: the ability of an existing stand to advance in successional stages to meet objectives within reasonable cost.
- The size of the treatment acreage is limited by accessibility and achievement of goals.

Objective FM 2.2: Reduce the stem densities to accelerate growth rates and succession into early- and mid-mature successional stages and create more diverse and healthy forest stand structures. Treatments should provide for the retention of snags and large woody debris for the development of stand structure and diversity.

Management Actions

FM 2.2.1 (Nooning Creek and Finley Ridge): Reduce the tanoak competition to release Douglas-fir on approximately 300 acres. Reduction of fuel loading is a critical consideration in this drainage. Where tanoak slash reaches unacceptable levels, pile burning would be proposed. In other areas, single tree release or culturing of dominant conifers would be proposed. In some areas tanoak competition remains manageable in size and density. In these areas tanoak removal will be accomplished over a broader area. Approximately 200 trees per acre will be left with a high degree of variability in density and spacing conducive to providing diversity in the new stand.

Rationale: The Finley Creek Fire burned an estimated 13,000-17,000 acres and consumed the entire Nooning Creek drainage. Post-fire rehabilitation efforts included the planting of approximately 500,000 Douglas-fir seedlings. The site is within the tanoak series and competition from tanoak is intense.

FM 2.2.2 (Bear Trap Creek): Reduce the Douglas-fir stocking to approximately 70 trees per acre by means of thinning treatments over a certain period of time using random spacing as much as possible. Both conifers and hardwoods will be left to maintain species diversity. All native brush will be left uncut except in areas where brush interferes with getting the slash to the ground or pile burning is proposed. This site is lacking in the hard wood component and an effort would be made to encourage the development of hardwoods within this plantation.

Rationale: Prior to acquisition into public ownership this tract of land was clear cut and repeatedly burned to maintain grazing lands. Following acquisition in 1985, approximately 125,000 Douglas-fir seedlings were planted on a 200 acre site. These trees are exhibiting extremely high growth rates and the site is in need of thinning to develop structural diversity and accelerate the stand to late successional stand characteristics.

FM 2.2.3 (Kaluna Cliff): Reduce the Douglas-fir stocking and encourage the development of a diverse hardwood component. Thinning would be done to a variable spacing and yield approximately 70 trees per acre after several entries into the plantation over a period of time. Approximately 100 acres would be thinned.

Rationale: This acquired parcel was part of the 1974 Finley Creek fire and was planted following acquisition into public ownership. Approximately 60,000 Douglas-fir have been planted on this site and these trees are beginning to exhibit extremely high growth rates and will need thinning within the next ten years. This action would be required to develop structural diversity and accelerate this stand to late successional conditions. Thinning of this plantation will also reduce the fuel loading and protect this stand and reduce the risk of an early replacement fire.

FM 2.2.4 (Previously Harvested Stands): Prescriptions include culturing of individual conifer trees in dense tanoak stands, culturing, and thinning in thickets and dense clumps and thinning in pole stands to provide variable spacing and selection of dominant trees. All treatments will be in units smaller than 40 acres with the objective of increasing stand diversity with variation in horizontal and vertical stand structure. Dense thickets are of high value to some wildlife species and will be preserved as an important element of stand diversity and would be maintained as a component of the landscape. This prescription allows for the removal of some portion of the hardwood component and presents opportunities for fuel wood removal. Some of these stands will require the opening of old hauling and skid roads. Following the completion of the treatment, these roads will be properly decommissioned to prevent erosion and sediment entering into streams.

All the proposed silvicultural projects would be brought forward in this plan. In addition forest restoration will also be conducted on some lands that were harvested prior to acquisition into public ownership. These lands were harvested in the late 1950s to early 1970s and would need silvicultural treatments to accelerate their development into a more mature forest and a distribution based on a historical perspective prior to the onset of mechanical logging in the region. Prior to implementation, a detailed inventory would need to be completed to identify areas in need of treatment.

Rationale: A large percentage of the private land acquired in the King Range was previously harvested prior to acquisition into public ownership. Harvest prescriptions usually included clear cutting or “high-grading,” the practice of taking all the largest commercial trees from the forest. These harvested sites received no follow-up treatment and became dominated with tanoak. On many sites a residual and a second-growth Douglas-fir component persists in varying densities across much of this landscape. These forested stands are now between 30 to 45 years old. The Douglas-fir component is deficient in many areas, well spaced in other, distributed in clumps or thickets, or in some cases in extremely dense pole-sized stands of 10 - 100 acres.

4.14.4 Forest Management Standards

The following standards and guidelines are incorporated into this Proposed RMP from the Northwest Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines.

4.14.4.1 Silviculture

Stand and vegetation management of any kind, including prescribed burning, is considered a silvicultural treatment. Thinning (precommercial and commercial) may occur in stands up to 80 years old regardless of the origin of the stands (e.g., plantations planted after logging or stands naturally regenerated after fire or blowdown). The purpose of these silvicultural treatments is to benefit the creation and maintenance of late-successional forest conditions. Examples of silvicultural treatments that may be considered beneficial include thinnings in existing even-age stands and prescribed burning. For example, some areas within the King Range are actually young single-species stands. Thinning these stands can open up the canopy, thereby increasing diversity of plants and animals and hastening transition to a forest with mature characteristics.

Guidelines to Reduce Risks of Large-Scale Disturbance

Large-scale disturbances are natural events, such as fire, that can eliminate spotted owl habitat on hundreds or thousands of acres. Certain risk management activities, if properly planned and implemented, may reduce the probability of these major stand-replacing events. Elevated risk levels are attributed to changes in the characteristics and distribution of the mixed hardwood-conifer forests resulting from past fire protection and logging practices in the past. Risk reduction efforts are encouraged where they are consistent with the overall recommendations in these guidelines.

Silvicultural activities aimed at reducing risk will focus on younger stands in the King Range. The purpose is to accelerate development of late-successional conditions while making the future stand less susceptible to natural disturbances. Salvage activities would focus on the reduction of catastrophic insect, disease, and fire threats. Treatments will be designed to provide effective fuel breaks wherever possible. However, the scale of salvage and other treatments will not generally result in degeneration of currently suitable owl habitat or other late-successional conditions.

In some areas of the King Range, management that goes beyond these guidelines may be considered. Levels of risk in those areas that are particularly high may require additional measures. Consequently, management activities designed to reduce risk levels are encouraged, even if a portion of the activities must take place in currently late-successional habitat. While risk-reduction efforts will generally be focused on young stands, activities in older stands may be appropriate if:

- The proposed management activities would clearly result in greater assurance of long-term maintenance of habitat.
- The activities are clearly needed to reduce risks.
- The activities would not prevent the area from playing an effective role in the objectives for which they were established.

Such activities in older stands may also be undertaken in the King Range if levels of fire risk are particularly high.

4.14.4.2 Salvage

Salvage is defined as the removal of trees from an area following a stand-replacing event such as those caused by wind, fires, insect infestations, or diseases. Salvage guidelines are intended to prevent negative effects on late-successional habitat, while permitting some commercial wood volume removal. In some cases, salvage operations may actually facilitate habitat recovery. For example, excessive amounts of coarse woody debris may interfere with stand regeneration activities following some disturbances. In other cases, salvage may help reduce the risk of future stand-replacing disturbances. While priority would be given to salvage in areas where it would have a positive effect on late-successional forest habitat, salvage operations should not diminish habitat suitability now or in the future.

Tree mortality is a natural process in a forest ecosystem. Diseased and damaged trees are key structural components of late-successional forests. Accordingly, management planning for the King Range acknowledges the considerable value of retaining dead and dying trees in the forest as well as the benefits from salvage activities.

In all cases, planning for salvage will focus on long-range objectives, which are based on desired future condition of the forest. Because the King Range has been established to provide high quality habitat for species associated with late-successional forest conditions, management following a stand-replacing event would be designed to accelerate or not impede the development of those conditions. Logging practices during the 1950s and 1960s has resulted in large uniform stands of young tanoak with only a minor Douglas-fir component on many of the private lands that were acquired by the BLM within the King Range. The rate of development of this forest structure to late –successional forest characteristics is greatly influenced by a complex interaction of stand-level factors that include site productivity, species diversity, tree composition, population dynamics of live trees and snags, and decay rates of coarse woody debris. Salvage treatments in the almost pure uniform stands of tanoak following a stand replacement fire can present an opportunity to reestablish the Douglas-fir component into the forest stands. This would greatly enhance the future condition of the forest and accelerate the stands to late-successional forest characteristics. The removal of the excess dead material by means of salvage would provide openings for the planting of Douglas-fir seedlings and help reduce the risk of a future pre-mature stand replacing fire.

The following guidelines would apply to any salvage efforts conducted within the Frontcountry Zone of the King Range:

- The potential for benefit to species associated with late-successional forest conditions from salvage is greatest when stand-replacing events are involved. Salvage in disturbed sites of less than 10 acres is not appropriate because small forest openings are an important component of old-growth forests. In addition, salvage would occur only in stands where disturbance has reduced canopy closure to less than 40 percent, because stands with more closure are likely to provide some value for species associated with these forests.
- Surviving trees generally provide a significant residual of larger trees in the developing stand. In addition, defects caused by fire in residual trees may accelerate development of structural characteristics suitable for associated species. Also, those damaged trees that eventually die would provide additional snags. Consequently, all standing live trees would be retained, including those injured (e.g., scorched) but likely to survive. Inspection of the cambium layer can provide an indication of potential tree mortality.
- Snags provide a variety of habitat benefits for a variety of wildlife species associated with late-successional forests. Accordingly, following stand-replacing disturbance, management would focus on retaining snags that are likely to persist until late-successional conditions have developed and the new stand is again producing large snags. Late-successional conditions are not associated with stands less than 80 years old.
- Following a stand-replacing disturbance, management would retain adequate coarse woody debris quantities in the new stand so that in the future it would still contain amounts similar to naturally regenerated stands. The analysis that determines the amount of coarse woody debris to leave must account for the full period of time before the new stand begins to contribute coarse woody debris. Coarse woody debris decay rates, forest dynamics, and site productivity will vary among forest types and stands; and so, the specifications will also vary and should be determined on a site specific basis. That is, for each salvage operation appropriate amounts of coarse woody debris to be left on the site will be determined to be characteristic for each stand.

- Removal of snags and logs may be necessary to reduce hazards to humans along roads and trails, and in or adjacent to campgrounds. Where materials must be removed from the site, as in a campground or on a road, a salvage sale is appropriate. In other areas, such as along roads, leaving material on site would be considered. Also, material will be left where available coarse woody debris is inadequate.
- Where green trees, snags, and logs are present following disturbance, the green-tree and snag guidelines would be applied first, and completely satisfied where possible. The biomass left in snags can be credited toward the amount of coarse woody debris biomass needed to achieve management objectives.
- These basic guidelines may not be applicable after disturbances in younger stands because remnant coarse woody debris may be relatively small. In these cases, diameter and biomass retention guidelines would be developed consistent with the intention of achieving late-successional forest conditions.
- Logs present on the forest floor before a disturbance event provide habitat benefits that are likely to continue. It seldom will be appropriate to remove them. Where these logs are in an advanced state of decay, they would not be credited toward objectives for coarse woody debris retention developed after a disturbance event. Advanced state of decay is defined as logs not expected to persist to the time when the new stand begins producing coarse woody debris.
- The coarse woody debris retained should approximate the species composition of the original stand to help replicate preexisting suitable habitat conditions.
- Some deviation from these general guidelines may be allowed to provide reasonable access to salvage sites and feasible logging operations. Such deviation would occur on as small a portion of the area as possible, and would not result in violation of the basic intent that late-successional forest habitat or the development of such habitat in the future would not be impaired throughout the King Range. While exceptions to the guidelines may be allowed to provide access and operability, some salvage opportunities will undoubtedly be foregone because of access, feasibility, and safety concerns.

4.14.4.3 Multiple-Use Activities Other Than Silviculture

As a general guideline, non-silvicultural activities located inside the King Range that are neutral or beneficial to the creation and maintenance of late-successional habitat are allowed.

Road Construction and Maintenance

Road construction in the Frontcountry Zone for silvicultural, salvage, and other activities will not be allowed unless potential benefits exceed the costs of habitat impairment. If new roads are necessary to implement a practice that is otherwise in accordance with these guidelines, they will be kept to a minimum, be routed through non-late-successional habitat where possible, and be designed to minimize adverse impacts. Alternative access methods, such as aerial logging, will be considered to provide access for activities. Road maintenance may include felling hazard trees along rights-of-way. Leaving material on site will be considered if available coarse woody debris is inadequate. Topping trees would be considered as an alternative to felling.

Fuelwood Gathering

Fuelwood gathering will be permitted only in existing cull decks, where green trees are marked to thin (consistent with standards and guidelines) and to remove blowdown blocking roads. In all cases these activities would comply with the standards and guidelines for salvage and silvicultural activities.

Special Forest Products

Special forest products include but are not limited to posts, poles, rails, landscape transplants, seed cones, Christmas trees, boughs, mushrooms, fruits, berries, hardwoods, forest greens (e.g., ferns, huckleberry, salal, beargrass, Oregon grape, and mosses), and medicinal forest products. In all cases, evaluate whether activities have adverse effects on other KRNCA objectives. Sales would ensure resource sustainability and protection of other resource values such as special status plant or animal species. Where these activities are extensive (e.g., collection of fungi), it may be appropriate to evaluate whether they have significant effects on late-successional habitat. Restrictions beyond those outlined in this plan may be appropriate in some cases, and would be implemented through permit stipulations and limitations. Also see Section 4.15, Special Forest Products for specific goals, objectives, and management actions related to wild mushrooms, fuelwood, beargrass, and other vegetative products for floral trades.

4.15 SPECIAL FOREST PRODUCTS (SFP)

4.15.1 Introduction

Special forest products harvested in the King Range include mushrooms, fuelwood, beargrass, and other vegetative products for floral trades. Many special forest products are also associated with strong cultural meanings or roles in local communities or minority groups. The plan balances use levels for permitting personal and/or commercial collection with ensuring the sustainability of the habitats and ecological processes these species depend upon. The plan objectives and actions allow flexibility in managing these resources for sustainability while allowing for innovative use of new forest products.

4.15.2 Special Forest Product Availability

Goal SFP 1: Provide special forest products to the public for both personal and commercial usage based on best biological and resource information allowing BLM to provide special forest products to the public at levels that do not compromise the sustainability of these resources or the ecosystem processes associated with them.

Objective SFP 1.1: Provide Special Use Permits for forest products (such as, but not limited to: beargrass, huckleberry, salal, mushrooms, and fuelwood) for personal collection and commercial harvesting throughout all management zones in the KRNCA, except for specific locations identified in SFP 1.2 below.

Management Actions

SFP 1.1.1: Issue Special Forest products on an on-demand basis at the BLM Arcata Field Office and King Range Project Office.

Objective SFP 1.2: Incorporate restrictions such as amount, location of collection, seasonality, and length of harvest time into permits with additional stipulations identified as necessary on the permits for resource protection and to meet other plan goals.

Management Actions

SFP 1.2.1: Continue the seasonal restriction for commercial mushroom collection with a closing date of the last day in the calendar year. Continue the existing limit of 30 commercial permits at any one time. This number may be increased or decreased depending on the availability of the resource and the ability to maintain existing and sustainable populations.

SFP 1.2.2: There would be no seasonal restriction on personal permits for mushroom collection, however, a personal collection limit of 5 pounds per day would continue.

SFP 1.2.3: Fuel wood areas would be made available as a result of either forest treatment or fuel reduction projects designed to accelerate late successional characteristics. Limited fuelwood permits may also be issued in response to blowdowns or other weather conditions that cause tree-fall.

SFP 1.2.4: Designate a Native American Beargrass Collection Unit and implement active management efforts, such as no commercial permits within the Unit and localized prescribed burns to improve vigor and distribution of this species.

SFP 1.2.5: Commercial special forest products harvesting will be prohibited in the Mill Creek ACEC/RNA.

SFP 1.2.6: No fuel wood permits will be issued for the Backcountry Zone or the Mattole Estuary except in circumstances where a site specific environmental analysis has shown that removal of wood will benefit the management of these areas.

SFP 1.2.7: No permits will be issued for the cutting of live trees in Riparian Reserves.

Objective SFP 1.3: The number of permits to be issued may vary per year, depending on ensuring sustainability of the resource as determined through informal or formal monitoring programs. Formal monitoring programs would be established for high-demand products where there is a risk of resource depletion.

Management Actions

SFP 1.3.1: Monitor mushroom collection methods to prohibit destructive techniques, and encourage cooperative studies and monitoring programs.

SFP 1.3.2: Coordinate with local commercial collectors and Native American tribes to increase awareness and education regarding cultural use of beargrass.

4.16 GRAZING MANAGEMENT (GM)

4.16.1 Introduction

In the northwestern corner of the King Range, livestock grazing contributed to the management of open grasslands above the coastline. The KRNCA currently has four active grazing leases, with associated

allotments, representing a total of 2,050 AUMs. There are also several outstanding administrative issues that need to be addressed, including, redefining the boundary of one allotment to improve rangeland health, and administratively making four unused allotments permanently unavailable for grazing, with no change in the number of AUMs authorized.

4.16.2 Sustainable Grazing Practices

Goal GM 1: Allow for sustainable levels of grazing on existing rangelands to maintain coastal prairies and continue this traditional agricultural use in the region.

Objective GM 1.1: Maintain the existing four active grazing leases and associated grazing allotments, representing a total of 2,050 AUMs.

Management Actions and Allowable Uses

GM 1.1.1: Administratively redefine the Spanish Flat grazing boundary to exclude the terraced prairie between and including Spanish and Randal Creeks in order to protect significant cultural sites and to reduce conflicts with recreation visitors. The portion that will be made unavailable to livestock grazing is approximately 500 acres of perched prairie shelf including and between Randall Creek and the southern-most allotment boundary; no AUMS will be lost as use will be shifted to other areas of the allotment.

Rationale: This change is needed to resolve rangeland health and resource use conflicts: This action would primarily benefit cultural resources by removing cattle from an area with numerous significant sites. It would provide a secondary benefit of protecting anadromous fisheries and improving water quality for back country users (see Figure 4-7).

GM 1.1.2: Administratively change land use allocations for the following four expired leases from available to unavailable to livestock grazing:

1. **Bear Trap Allotment:** 654 acres, 400 AUMs, lease cancelled since 1995; allotment was an old clear cut that has since been planted and has redeveloped back to forest. It does not consist of suitable grazing lands and was only grazed for two seasons in 1985-86.
2. **Etter Lease:** 40 acres, 8 AUMs, limited grasslands have successional converted to forest. The lease expired and was cancelled in 1996.
3. **Jewett Ridge Allotment:** 80 acres, 13 AUMs, lease cancelled since 1996. Allotment contains no suitable grassland. It historically was a clear cut adjacent to a private landowner who wished to graze it while the grasses were available. The area has returned to a productive forest and is no longer capable of accommodating livestock production.
4. **Big Flat Allotment:** 2,285 acres, 60 AUMs, lease never grazed at lessee annual request; lease expired 1995. Area is unsuitable for livestock grazing due to cultural and soil resource protection needs, recreation and visual incompatibilities, and access logistics.

Rationale for making Big Flat unavailable for grazing:

Protection of archaeological and cultural resources in the Big Flat grazing allotment is not compatible with livestock grazing.

Several large cultural sites exist in the transition zone from beach to prairie. It has been demonstrated on the Spanish Flat grazing allotment to the north that livestock grazing on a coastal terrace prairie, with its fragile soil-vegetation surface integrity, can not occur without extensively damaging the sites, unless the sites are completely fenced and regularly maintained.

The soils are not suitable for livestock grazing. Grasses grow on a mosaic of semi-stabilized sand and sandy-loam. The coastal terrace prairie soils are developed primarily as a result of repeated seismic events which have uplifted near-shore marine deposits (intertidal beach sands and gravel deposits). These uplifted terraces are fairly young as they have been carbon-dated at about 3,000 years old in the area north of Spanish Flat (Lajoie et al. 1982) and have not had enough geologic time to form real soil horizons. The erodability of these soils is very high when grass cover is removed, as the soil profile lacks adhesive clay particles and it is extremely thin, in the neighborhood of a few centimeters at best. Once the thin sandy-loam surface is disturbed, susceptibility to wind erosion is extremely high as loamy-sand and sand are the remaining constituents below.

Any active grazing on Big Flat would require extensive new fencing. New fences would have to be constructed around a) the several large cultural sites for protection and mitigation, b) the air strip; to prevent damage to the air strip, incoming and outgoing airplanes, and livestock, and c) the private parcels to prevent trespass. In all, about three miles of fencing would have to be built in the most coveted destination point along the Lost Coast trail. Access logistics and economics alone make these fences infeasible. Further, construction of new fences in the Wilderness Study Area is not compatible with the management goals and objectives for this area.

Big Flat is a very inaccessible location within the Backcountry Zone. Vehicle transport of livestock to the bottom of the Smith-Etter Road would be difficult, and likely impassable during wet times of year. Then, to get stock to Big Flat, livestock would have to be driven four miles south down the beach. Practical grazing compliance monitoring and range improvement maintenance by both the operator and BLM staff would be difficult to achieve.

4.17 FIRE MANAGEMENT (FIR)

4.17.1 Introduction

Throughout history, fire has been one of the primary forces affecting the King Range landscape, creating and maintaining a mosaic pattern of fire-adapted ecosystems such as grasslands and chaparral. The plan seeks to find a balance between managing for the natural dynamics of fire effects across the landscape and protecting property and resources from damage both within and adjacent to the KRNCA.

Note that the term “Appropriate Management Response” as used in this section has specific meaning regarding fire planning/management. It is defined as “Specific action taken in response to a wildland fire to implement protection and fire use objectives.” In other words, the “appropriate management response” is determined by the specific goals and objectives outlined in this RMP and King Range Fire Management Plan.

The conditions associated with individual fires and the resulting tactics employed to manage those fires are too numerous to document in this plan; the appropriate management response to a specific situation must take these conditions into account along with area fire use objectives. This plan outlines differing fire management objectives and actions in each management zone to achieve the overall fire management goal.

4.17.2 Landscape-Based Fire Management

Goal FIR 1: Develop a landscape resistant to damage associated with large scale, high intensity fires by allowing for the natural dynamic effects of fire to occur on the ecosystem. Provide the appropriate management response on all wildland fires, with an emphasis on firefighter and public safety.

Area-Wide

Objective FIR 1.1: Reduce the wildfire risk to life, resources, and property with protection of human life (firefighter and public safety) taking highest priority during the occurrence of any wildland fire.

Management Actions

FIR 1.1.1: Permits would be required for all campfires outside of developed campgrounds year round. Campfires will be permitted only in developed campsites during high wildfire potential periods. Consideration may be given to allowing fires in certain specific locations outside of developed campgrounds (e.g., beach) at the discretion of the authorized officer.

FIR 1.1.2: Conduct wildfire prevention and education programs in conjunction with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF).

Objective FIR 1.2: Reduce the damaging effects of fire suppression activities on natural and cultural resources.

Management Actions

FIR 1.2.1: Limit the use of mechanized equipment within Wilderness Study Areas (WSA), additional lands found to possess wilderness characteristics, and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).

FIR 1.2.2: Perform burned area rehabilitation to mitigate damages associated with wildfires.

FIR 1.2.3: Complete and implement a shaded fuel break system (see Figure 4-8).

Rationale: Shaded fuel breaks involve the removal of brush, lower tree branches, and other fuels that can carry a fire, while leaving larger trees to provide a shade canopy. This type of fuel break is very effective while causing a minimal level of resource impacts and visual intrusion. The existing main fuel break system runs east from Kaluna Cliff to the King Peak Road, and continues north to the Horse Creek Trailhead and up the ridgeline to Horse Mountain. It then follows the ridgeline north to the Buck Creek Trailhead and down to the King Range Road. From the north end of King Range Road the fuel break goes down Bear Wallow Ridge to Honeydew Creek and up to the Smith-Etter Road. Finally, it runs parallel to the Smith-Etter Road along the ridgeline to the west, terminating at the North Slide Peak Trailhead.

The 2003 Honeydew Fire required an extensive suppression effort to protect life and property on private lands and in communities surrounding the KRNCA. This required tactics such as construction of new dozer lines and reopening of existing dozer lines, including several miles of line within the King Range Wilderness Study Area.

To improve protection of surrounding communities and private lands, and to lessen the need for future dozer lines and their associated impacts, the shaded fuel break system would be expanded under the Proposed RMP to augment the existing system discussed above. Additional locations currently planned include the 2003 dozer line on Fire Hill (from the King Crest Trail to a slide above the beach), Paradise Ridge, and Finley Ridge. Other locations may be added to meet the objectives of the area fire management plan (under development), as long as they meet the objectives of this RMP.

In summary, expansion of the shaded fuel break, although they cause some modest impacts to naturalness, would reduce impacts to the area's naturalness in the long-term by providing defensible containment perimeters for fire, thus reducing the need for dozer line construction. Having several defensible fuel breaks would also increase the BLM's capability for reestablishment of the natural role of fire in the Backcountry Zone.

FIR 1.2.4: Use prescribed fire activities (combinations of broadcast and pile burn) to improve forest health and increase unique habitat improvement (such as disease control, exotic species eradication, coastal prairie maintenance, etc.).

FIR 1.2.5: Augment the shade fuel break system by using broadcast burning to increase the reduction of fuels adjacent to the system.

FIR 1.2.6: Update 1992 King Range Fire Management Plan to reflect conditions as set forth in this plan.

Zone-Specific

Backcountry Zone:

Objective FIR 1.3: Re-establish and maintain the natural role of fire in the Backcountry Zone by allowing naturally ignited fires to burn.

Objective FIR 1.4: Manage fuels to allow variable intensity wildfires to create a landscape resistant to damages associated with large, high intensity fires, yet provide for the natural, dynamic effects of fire to occur on the ecosystem.

Management Actions

FIR 1.4.1: Actively suppress all human caused fires within the Backcountry Zone.

FIR 1.4.2: Initiate suppression actions on natural fires that may threaten private property. In all suppression situations, minimize direct attack by using bucket drops and retardant to cool hotspots and slow the rate of spread if deemed appropriate.

FIR 1.4.3: Assess direct attack needs on a case-by-case basis for wildfires, which occur during extreme fire conditions.

FIR 1.4.4: Practice Appropriate Management Response within the Backcountry Zone to the extent it remains safe for fire suppression forces and does not pose a risk to adjacent private property. Fires may be allowed to burn within broad containment areas if it is determined by BLM, in conjunction with the CDF that current and expected fire behavior would not have adverse impacts and would enhance the natural character of the KRNCA. Implementation of this strategy is dependent on communication between resource advisors and the fire suppression agency during the incident. A continuous process of monitoring and assessment of the immediate fire situation is required.

Frontcountry and Residential Zones

Objective FIR 1.5: All wildfires, regardless of cause, within the Residential and Frontcountry Zones would be suppressed to protect human life and property and natural/cultural resources both within and adjacent to BLM administered lands.

Management Actions

FIR 1.5.1: Utilize prescribed fire and mechanical fuel reduction methods in managing fuels to create conditions resulting in low intensity wildfires and to reduce fire-spread potential and damages associated with large, high intensity fires.

Objective FIR 1.6: Fire suppression activities would be commensurate with values at risk and potential long-term damages associated with the efforts.

Management Actions

FIR 1.6.1: Explore opportunities for stewardship contracts with local interests for thinning, biomass removal/utilization, and firewood cutting provided such projects meet the goals of hazardous fuels reduction and vegetative management. These stewardship contracts could include, for example, opportunities for residents to reduce hazardous fuels on public lands adjoining their private properties.



Winter burning of brush removed from the Saddle Mountain shaded fuel break.

4.18 TRAVEL MANAGEMENT (TRV)

4.18.1 Introduction

The purpose of the travel management program is to provide a transportation network for public and administrative access while minimizing impacts on natural and cultural resources in the area. Area roads are designed and managed to blend with the primitive character of the KRNCA, and to allow for a diversity of uses and experiences. Limitations on use are sometimes needed to ensure safety or to protect resources from degradation due to excessive erosion. The KRNCA has a long history of travel management planning, so the Proposed RMP proposes minimal changes to the existing program.

All public lands in the planning area are designated through the land use planning process as either open, limited, or closed to vehicle travel under the BLM Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Regulations (43 CFR Subpart 8342—Designation of Areas and Trails). Under this system, in an “Open Area,” all vehicle types

are allowed to access all parts of an area (including cross-country travel) at all times. In a “Limited Area” vehicle use is allowed only during certain times of year, by certain types of vehicles, or in certain parts of the area such as designated roads and trails.

In the King Range, all public vehicle routes are in the Frontcountry and Residential Zones, and vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails. Additional limitations for vehicle type and time are outlined below for each route; also see Figure 4-9. These designations only apply to BLM managed roads and trails, and not to County roads. Note that:

- Public vehicle use in the planning area is limited to routes designated in this plan. Any areas and routes on public lands within the planning area that are not identified explicitly in this plan and associated map are closed to public vehicle use.
- Routes designed for passenger car access to and within campgrounds, trailhead parking areas and other BLM Recreation Sites, although they are not identified explicitly, are open to vehicles unless signed, gated, or otherwise closed.
- Certain routes are designated as limited to 4-wheel drive (4WD) vehicles. This designation indicates that the routes have steep or irregular surfaces and are not maintained for passenger car access. These designations are for planning purposes, and visitors should inquire locally as to current conditions of routes.

4.18.2 Transportation and Accessibility

Goal TRV 1: Provide and maintain a transportation network for public and administrative access that complements the rural character of the KRNCA and surrounding Lost Coast region, provides quality scenic recreational driving opportunities, and has minimal impacts on area resources.

Vehicle Use

Objective TRV 1.1: Provide administrative, fire, and emergency access for the management and protection of area visitors, resources, and facilities.

Objective TRV 1.2: Fulfill legal access requirements to private landowners and other right-of-way holders and land use permittees. (Specific access issues regarding private landowners are beyond the scope of this plan and will be addressed on an individual basis with each landowner).

Objective TRV 1.3: Minimize impacts to water quality, soils, vegetation, wildlife, and other resources through proper design and maintenance of roads.

Objective TRV 1.4: Recognize that county roads provide the primary access to/through much of the King Range. Coordinate with and assist Humboldt County in ensuring that the county road system complements King Range resource protection and public access needs.

Objective TRV 1.5: Manage the western coastal slope, or Backcountry Zone of the King Range as a non-mechanized use area.

Objective TRV 1.6: Provide public access to BLM lands and facilities by providing visitors with opportunities to experience diverse scenic and recreational resources along driving routes capable of accommodating passenger vehicles on a year-round basis.

Management Actions

TRV 1.6.1: The following roads would remain open year-round to all vehicle types:

TRV 1.6.1.1 (Prosper Ridge Road): From Lighthouse Road to private property boundary just beyond intersection with Windy Point Road (approximately 2.2 miles)

Rationale: This road provides access to several scenic vista points, a paragliding launch site, and numerous private year-round residences.

TRV 1.6.1.2 (Nooning Creek Road): From Shelter Cove Road to end (approximately 2.0 miles)

Rationale: This road provides access to numerous private year-round residences and to public lands along Nooning Creek.

TRV 1.6.1.3 (King Range Road): From King Peak Road to end (approximately 6.6 miles)

Rationale: This road provides access to the popular Lightning Trailhead. The road beyond the trailhead was restored to a natural appearing landscape several years ago because of major road failures, landslides, and potential for adverse resource impacts. This road also serves as a major firebreak connector between Saddle Mountain Ridge and Bearwallow Ridge.

Objective TRV 1.7: Provide public access to BLM lands and facilities by providing visitors with opportunities to experience diverse scenic and recreational resources along driving routes appropriate for 4-WD vehicles on a year-round basis.

Management Actions

TRV 1.7.1: The following roads have a limited designation, and would be open year-round to 4-WD vehicles:

TRV 1.7.1.1 (Paradise Ridge Road): Shelter Cove Road to end (approximately 9.0 miles).

Rationale: This road is located on a ridgeline where soil erosion is minimal. It provides access to private property. Numerous hunters and other vehicle-oriented recreation users enjoy traveling this road for a backcountry riding experience. The road also serves as a major firebreak.

TRV 1.7.1.2 (Finley Ridge Road): From Paradise Ridge Road to BLM land boundary (approximately 1.5 miles).

Rationale: This road provides access to private property and undeveloped public lands along Paradise Ridge.

TRV 1.7.1.3 (Saddle Mountain Road): Intersection with King Peak Road to intersection with King Range Road (approximately 5.4 Miles)

Rationale: This road provides access to the Saddle Mountain trailhead. Most of the road traverses a ridgeline where soil erosion is minimal during the rainy season. Numerous scenic vistas of the coastline offer visitors with a high quality vehicle touring experience. The vistas here are similar to the King Crest trail system. Most of the road corridor serves as a major shaded fuel break.

Objective TRV 1.8: Provide public access to BLM lands and facilities by providing visitors with opportunities to experience diverse scenic and recreational resources along driving routes appropriate for 4-WD vehicles on a seasonal basis.

Management Actions

TRV 1.8.1: The following routes would have seasonal limitations in place for resource protection and/or visitor safety:

TRV 1.8.1.1 (Smith-Etter Road): Wilder Ridge Road to its intersection with Telegraph Ridge Road (approximately 10.2 miles) Open seasonally from April 1 to October 31. The season of use may vary based on rainfall/soil conditions that could cause road damage or soil erosion.

Rationale: This road provides access to the Kinsey Ridge, North Slide Peak, and Spanish Ridge trailheads and is also used by hunters, special forest product collectors, and as a scenic backcountry driving route. It also provides access to private property. Portions of the road serve as a major firebreak. During the winter, severe storms with strong winds and high rainfall (and snowfall at the highest elevations) make it impractical to keep the road open. Vehicle use during the winter would also cause sedimentation and road damage to the lower section of the road without drainage and surface improvements.

TRV 1.8.1.2 (Windy Point Road): From intersection with Prosper Ridge Road to private property boundary (approximately 1.6 miles). Limited seasonally from April 1 to October 31 (the season of use may vary based on rainfall/soil conditions that could cause road damage or soil erosion).

Rationale: This road provides close access to Punta Gorda Lighthouse, a popular abalone diving area, and offers scenic vistas of the coastline. It also provides access to private property. During the winter rains, vehicle use would cause significant resource damage without substantial road upgrades. Seasonal allowance will provide public access during the peak use months including the summer tourist season, abalone and deer season.

TRV 1.8.1.3 (Etter Road): From Smith-Etter Road to BLM land boundary (approximately 1.9 miles) Limited seasonally from April 1 to October 31. The season of use may vary based on rainfall/soil conditions that could cause road damage or soil erosion.

Rationale: This route receives low public use but provides easier and more rapid emergency access for fire suppression (through private property). The access season must coincide with the Smith-Etter Road which provides public access.

TRV 1.8.1.4 (Mattole Estuary Road and Spur): Approximately 1/2 mile. Limited: Designated Routes Only (route to be marked each spring after high water subsides).

Season length would vary based upon water levels. Route would be closed for the season when flooded by winter flows, and reopened when water levels subside in spring.

Rationale: This road and a number of unmaintained spurs provide access into the gravel bars in the Mattole Estuary area. The main road also fords the river to private property on the north side (landowner has an easement). The gravel bars are currently accessed for a variety of uses, including fishing (drift boat takeout), hunting, hiking, overnight camping, and wildlife viewing. Parts of the estuary contain riparian vegetation and woody debris critical to the anadromous fishery and other wildlife values. Local fishery restoration groups have focused considerable attention on monitoring and improving habitat in the area and are concerned about impacts from unmanaged vehicle use, as well as firewood cutting, escaped campfires, etc. The portion of the estuary below mean high water line was outside of BLM's management jurisdiction. However, the BLM recently obtained a permit from the State Lands Commission to manage vehicle use on these lands. Allowing use on designated routes would provide for managed vehicle access and use of two routes that do not impact the riparian vegetation.

TRV 1.7.1.4 (Telegraph Ridge Road): Intersection with Smith-Etter Road to the gate on Lake Ridge (approximately 3.2 miles). Limited seasonally from April 1 to October 31. The season of use may vary based on rainfall/soil conditions that could cause road damage or soil erosion.

Rationale: This road extends from the Smith-Etter Road (seasonal use) and provides public access to several trails. It allows hunters closer vehicle access to popular hunting areas at the north end of the King Range. During the winter, severe storms combined with high rainfall and snow makes it impractical to keep open during the rainy season. Vehicle use on this road during the winter would be potentially unsafe and would greatly increase maintenance costs.

Objective TRV 1.9: Administratively close routes not legally available for use by the general public to OHV use.

Management Actions

TRV 1.9.1 (Johnny Jack Ridge Road): The entire route along the Johnny Jack Ridge Road would be closed to vehicle access.

Rationale: This designation will not change the accessibility of this route to the public as the route is currently not accessible due to lack of legal access. The road traverses several miles of private land before entering BLM land. The BLM has no legal access across these private lands.

Boating Use and Boat Landings

Objective TRV 1.10: Protect the non-mechanized recreation experience and wilderness characteristics of the Backcountry Zone and minimize impacts to the sensitive resources of the Mattole River Estuary including salmon fry, birds, and other wildlife.